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RR RUESBA
DE RUESDO 4179 3391645
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 041716Z DEC 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO RUENC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7132
INFO RUESUZ/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 1926
RUESBA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 7298
RUFHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0129
RUDKFMQ/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 0030
RUDKGPQ/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 0041
RUESUZ/AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE 0093
RUESUA/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO 1872
RUESUP/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO 0036
BT

MONTEVIDEO 4179

E.O. 12065: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, BR, UY
SUBJ: KIDNAPPING OF URUGUAYAN POLITICAL REFUGEES IN BRAZIL

REF: MONTEVIDEO 4144

1. BRAZILIAN JOURNALIST LUIZ CUNHA, WHO STUMBLED ON APPARENT KIDNAPPING IN PORTO ALEGRE OF URUGUAYAN POLITICAL REFUGEES UNIVERSINDO RODRIGUEZ AND LILIANA DE CASARIEGO, IS CURRENTLY FOLLOWING UP STORY IN MONTEVIDEO. IN DISCUSSION NOVEMBER 30 WITH PAO AND POLOFF, CUNHA CONFIRMED ALL MAJOR DETAILS OF EXPERIENCES ATTRIBUTED TO HIM IN BRAZILIAN MEDIA AND SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED HERE (REFTEL). HE HAS NO DOUBT URUGUAYANS' CAPTORS (AND HIS OWN, BRIEFLY) WERE BRAZILIAN AND STRONGLY SUSPECTS THEY WERE FROM LOCAL SECURITY FORCES.

2. THESE IMPRESSIONS HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED BY HIS INTERVIEW HERE WITH CAMILO CASARIEGO, EIGHT-YEAR OLD SON OF LILIANA. URUGUAYAN AUTHORITIES MAINTAIN THE BOY AND HIS YOUNGER SISTER, WHO HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO CUSTODY OF GRANDPARENTS, WERE WITH THEIR MOTHER AND HER ASSOCIATE WHEN THE PAIR WERE SUPPOSEDLY APPREHENDED AFTER HAVING VOLUNTARILY ENTERED URUGUAY. BOY'S STORY, HOWEVER, DIFFERS MARKEDLY. HE RECALLS (WITH CONSIDERABLE CERTAINTY) THAT PORTO ALEGRE APARTMENT IN WHICH THEY WERE LIVING WAS INVADDED ON NOVEMBER 12 BY FIVE OR SIX ARMED MEN DRESSED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES, INCLUDING TWO "WHO SPOKE SPANISH LIKE WE DO". CHILDREN WERE IMMEDIATELY SEPARATED FROM THEIR PARENTS AND TAKEN TO A LOCATION WHOSE DESCRIPTION, ACCORDING TO CUNHA, IS "UNMISTAKABLY" THAT OF LOCAL HEADQUARTERS OF BRAZILIAN MILITARY SECURITY SERVICE. CHILDREN WERE THEN DRIVEN BY CAR TO URUGUAY, WHERE THEY WERE HELD FOR SEVERAL MORE DAYS UNTIL BEING TURNED OVER TO THEIR GRANDPARENTS.

3. COINCIDENTALLY, BRAZILIAN FONMIN AZEVEDO WILL BE HERE NEXT WEEK FOR A MEETING OF RIVER PLATE BASIN FOREIGN MINISTERS. CUNHA EXPECTS ISSUE TO BE RAISED BY BRAZILIAN PRESS (INCLUDING HIMSELF) WHO WILL BE COVERING EVENT.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT, THROUGH EFFORTS OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, CASE HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY IN EUROPE. DUTCH AMBASSADOR INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT IT HAS BEEN RAISED FORMALLY IN DUTCH PARLIAMENT.

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Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

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Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason